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CIA Agents Don't Look Like James Bond Spies

The News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Agents of the Central Intelligence Agency look more like college professors than the James Bond types in the movies.

Rep. Lee H. Hamilton, Columbus Democrat, has described a visit to CIA headquarters at nearby Langley, Va., but he didn't disclose much about the briefing.

The drive to CIA headquarters off the George Washington Parkway was not marked, Hamilton noted, except for a sign that only a spy could decipher. It said: "Bureau of Public Roads."

"The headquarters, an eight story, U-shaped structure surrounded by a high, chain-link fence, came into view shortly after the turn-off," Hamilton said. "At the gate, a uniformed guard checked the driver's identification badge carefully, then asked us to state our business and identify ourselves."

A second check was made in the main lobby of the CIA building, and an escort "met us and stayed with us every step of the way," the Hoosier said.

Hamilton noted that a wall in the lobby was inscribed with the Biblical quotation: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."

The congressman was briefed, quite logically, in the building's "conference briefing room." He described:

"As coffee was served,

noted a number of maps on the walls, each dealing with some aspects of this country's security operations. Projectors and screens also were in this room."

CIA Director Richard M. Helms, 53, met Hamilton and the other congressmen and turned the briefing over to his agents.

Hamilton said the briefing on Latin American countries and their present-day political and economic status was "astoundingly intricate." The agents knew their subjects, he said.

"They spoke knowingly of political leaders in these countries—even down to the results of their latest physical exams."

When the briefing was over, the escort officer reappeared and Hamilton's group was taken back to the main lobby and then to the gate for the trip back to Washington.

The Columbus Democrat summarized:

"From time to time we hear harsh criticism of the CIA. Without passing judgment on that, it is reassuring to see the competence and skill of the CIA experts."